

MAY 14, 2009
TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held its monthly meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2009 at the Stuyvesant Town Hall. In attendance at the meeting were Supervisor Valerie Bertram, Councilperson Rosalind Gumaer, Councilperson Ronald Knott, and Councilman Bradlee Webster. Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski, Councilman Edward Scott and Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli were not in attendance.

Supervisor Bertram called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMUNICATIONS

A letter from the Kinderhook Memorial Library regarding the Speakers in Humanities Program.

A letter from the United Way regarding the public launch of United Way 211 supporting the Northeast Region of New York. The program provides direct personal and professional assistance for information on and referral to human resources to residents of the community. Referral services to 12 counties relating to clothing, food, shelter, child care, crisis counseling, substance abuse issues, health resources, employment, financial and legal issues.

A letter from Charles Albertson regarding the Quadricentennial Celebration. The Stuyvesant Falls Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council has discussed their participation in the parade in Stuyvesant Falls – it is their intention to enter a float in the parade to honor the Quadricentennial as well as their milestone 90th anniversary.

Supervisor Bertram led into a letter from the Stuyvesant Democratic Committee by explaining that at the April Workshop meeting she had jokingly responded a request to put a portable toilet at the Ken Hummel Park with “if you can find the money we can put one there”. The letter from Lee Jamison, the Chair of the Stuyvesant Democratic Committee offered to pay for a portable toilet to be sited at the Ken Hummel Park.

A motion was made by Councilman Bradlee Webster to accept the communications as read. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Knott to approve and pay the bills. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously.

REPORTS:

Town Clerk

Report is on file in the Clerk’s Office. Supervisor Bertram read a statement by the Town Clerk that she had attended the NYS Town Clerk’s Conference in Rochester in April, which included 15 hours of classes and she received a certification for 8 CEUs.

Supervisor Bertram also pointed out the record book that had recently been restored. It is the birth, marriage and death recorded from 1871.

There were between 10-15 people at the first community fun run/walk on Friday night. Allyson Webster gave out longer routes and thanks to Sean Cummings for providing water half-way along the route.

The taxes will be returned to the County Treasurer on June 1st.

Highway Department

Due to Superintendent’s Kowalski’s absence there was no report.

Supervisor Bertram reported that the highway department needs to purchase a new trailer to haul the mower. The old one is very old and unsafe. A new one will cost \$2,146.00 and will be purchased from Heavy Hauler in Ghent. A motion to approve the purchase was made by Councilman Ronald Knott and seconded by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously.

A member of the public asked that Supervisor Bertram ask the Highway Department to re-install the picnic tables at the sandbar. Supervisor Bertram will ask him to reinstall the tables and garbage cans.

Spring Clean Up day will be Saturday, May 16th at 8:00am at the Sharptown Road site.

Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer

Report on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Dog Control Officer

Supervisor Bertram read the report and it is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Planning/Zoning Boards

Zoning – no report due to no business.

Planning – Supervisor Bertram read the report and it is on file with the Town Clerk's Office.

Greenway Committee

Councilman Ronald Knott reported that the Committee hasn't officially met since the last Board Meeting. However, a few of the members are working on the survey that is being developed to be mailed out to the residents. They wanted to have the survey completed in time for this month's Board Meeting but is isn't. Hopefully, it will be ready for the meeting in June.

Next meeting will be Thursday, May 28th at 7:00pm.

Agriculture Committee

No Report.

Town Hall Committee

Councilman Ronald Knott reported that the Garden Club has put in a Memorial Garden with a bench in front of the building by the tree. Would like to order a couple new tables for the room – we are about 2 short for being able to set up for meetings and/or parties. A motion was made by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer to approve the purchase of 2 tables at a cost not to exceed \$400. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott and was approved unanimously.

We also need to replace 3 of the emergency lights in the building at a cost of \$46 each. A motion was made by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer to replace the lights, the motion was seconded by Councilman Bradlee Webster. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously. Councilman Knott will order the lights.

Railroad Station Restoration Committee

Marilyn Burch reported that the Farmers' Market started the previously Friday. This year there are a lot of new vendors and events planned for each week. There were over 100 people that attended the opening of the Farmers' Market. There are schedules printed up and are circulating around town.

Supervisor Bertram read a letter from the NYS Department of Transportation transmitting the fully executed copies of the supplemental agreement to amend the phase completion date from 12/31/2003 to 12/31/2012 for the railroad station restoration project. She explained that this means we can get going on the work on the railroad station. Councilman Knott explained that the next step is to discuss how the funding gets reimbursed and the architects will put the project out to bid.

Cemetery

Councilman Bradlee Webster reported that the cemetery has been cleaned up of the brush and that Andy Broockmann will continue to mow. Councilman Webster also reported that we had received a letter from Split Line Construction – the company that does the digging when there is a burial. In the past, they charged \$300/job and the Town charged \$500. They have changed their billing and increased their rates. There is no longer a flat rate and there will be different charges for weekday, weekend, holiday, Christmas and winter. By NYS Law, we now have to do burials in the winter. Councilman Webster has presented the Board with a proposed new fee schedule. Supervisor Bertram read the fee schedule aloud (it is on file in the Town Clerk's Office). Councilman Webster reminded the Board that the Town has not increased the amount they will receive – the increased rates only reflect the increase from the vendor. Councilman Ronald Knott made a motion to approve the revised fee schedule as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously.

Historian

Supervisor Bertram discussed the plans for the Quadricentennial Celebration. Town Historian Juanita Knott has dubbed the weekend “Stuyvesant Old Anchorage Quad Weekend” which is September 19th & 20th. Our tentative schedule is as follows:

On Saturday, 9/19 all of the activities will be held in Stuyvesant Falls. A People’s Parade will be at 10:00am – both fire companies are hosting – there will be floats, people in period costumes, vintage autos, the 4-H, and the ICC marching band. The route will be announced – anyone who would like to participate is invited to attend. There will also be a pictorial stamp cancellation at both post offices and at the VFW grounds there will be historic photo displays, demonstrations and exhibits. The Stockport Ladies’ Auxiliary will be doing fried dough, there are discussions about a “just for fun” baseball or kickball game and there are rumors about a chainsaw carver (not confirmed). A talk and slide show from 1-3pm – Bob Titus will be at St. Mary’s Fellowship Hall discussing the geology of our area. The site for lunch will be announced. The recreation committee is talking about doing something for the children at the playground or somewhere nearby. At the VFW from 4-7pm there will be a DJ and the VFW will be selling food.

On Sunday, 9/20 the activities will be in Stuyvesant Landing. The day will begin with an 11:00 Ecumenical Church service at the Dutch Reformed Church. It is anticipated that the Boy Scouts will be camping Saturday and Sunday at the Ken Hummel Park, although it hasn’t been confirmed yet. Brunch will be at the Stuyvesant Fire House. An Art Show will be at the Town Hall all day. At the Newton Hook Preserve there will be a show from 1-3pm, and a chance to be part of an oral history program. There will be a sale of Historic Stuyvesant items in the afternoon. St. John’s Lutheran Church will be holding a spaghetti supper from 5:00 – 7:00. Live music will be at the Railroad Station from 4-9pm. Riverview Street will be closed to vehicular traffic at 3:00pm to start the “block party”. Food will be at the Riverview Café and Empire State Fireworks will put on a display at dark over the river. At the Quad Committee, the Town of Stockport announced that they will pay for ½ of the fireworks and the Stuyvesant Falls Hydro Plant will pay for the remaining ½. There will be a shuttle service set up to provide transportation up and down the hill to the river. Parking will probably be at the playground and town hall.

If anyone has anything they would like to add to the schedule please let the Board know.

Marilyn Burch announced that June 12th will be “River Day” to watch the historic boat parade coming up the Hudson River.

On Historic Stuyvesant Day, August 8th, there will be the Ken Hummel Memorial 5K Race and Kids’ Chicken Run. At around noon there will be an official dedication of the Ken Hummel Park with a small ceremony. On the afternoon of that day (around 3:00 or 4:00), the Stuyvesant Falls Hydro Plant will dedicate an information kiosk and picnic area at the overlook park.

Assessor’s Office

Cathy Knott announced that Grievance Day will be Tuesday, May 26th from 4:00 – 8:30 at the Town Hall. Forms are available in the Assessor’s Office, in the Town Clerk’s Office and online.

Supervisor Bertram announced that we are at 100% Equalization Rate and that the State has approved our numbers.

Recreation Committee

Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer explained to everyone that the Town is again sponsoring resident children in attending the Town of Kinderhook Playground program for seven weeks in July and August between 9:00am – 3:00pm. Supervisor Bertram announced that she had been told by Supervisor McGivney of Kinderhook that the swim program associated with the playground will again be held at Knickerbocker Lake. Councilwoman Gumaer also explained that if someone wants their child to participate they need to register with the Town of Stuyvesant by calling the Town Clerk’s Office but that they will also have to complete the registration form with the Town of Kinderhook. Councilwoman Gumaer reported that in addition to the letter about the playground there is also a “Calendar of Events” through September being mailed out.

Councilwoman Gumaer highlighted the activities on June 12th and said the Rec. Committee is suggesting everyone bring canoes or kayaks to the river to watch the parade. Councilman Knott reminded her that he has suggested the Committee contact someone at New York State to make sure it is okay to have all those small boats in the water. Councilwoman Gumaer said that this is the tentative plan and will let everyone know the results. On July 4th there is a picnic planned at the Ken Hummel

Park beginning at 4pm – there will be a nature scavenger hunt and may be able to see fireworks from there. In August, the week after the Historic Stuyvesant Day, there are tentative plans for an evening stargazing walk at the Ken Hummel Park. During the Ken Hummel Memorial 5K Race, the Recreation Committee will provide activities for children at the playground.

On May 30th from 9:00am-Noon (31st rain date) there will be a Community Garden Day being led by Mr. Robert Gibbs at the Stuyvesant Falls Playground. They will utilize the skating rink and people can have a 5'x6' plot. Rototilling services have been donated as well as seeds, plants and possibly a water barrel donated from Mario's. People should bring their own gardening tools.

Councilwoman Gumaer reported that during the playground clean up at Stuyvesant Landing a list was made of things that need to be accomplished. On the top of the list was the roof of the pavilion. There are more wood chips needed under the equipment, the benches should be sanded and stained, the path needs to be trimmed with a chainsaw, and the merry-go-round should be repainted. There are some missing bolts and the backstop fence needs to be repaired. Councilwoman Gumaer asked if it was time to repaint the mural on the small shed at the Landing playground. Councilman Knott said he had spoken with Karen Hummel and asked her to speak with the original artist.

Supervisor Bertram asked if the equipment in the Falls had also been checked. Councilwoman Gumaer said she had been away and asked Michelle Richardson if it had been looked at. Mrs. Richardson reported that the merry-go-round was in the worst shape and should be repainted. Supervisor Bertram said all of the equipment is the same age and any necessary supplies should be purchased at the same time.

There was a question from the audience about activities for children in the area regarding scouts, etc. The gentlemen said he had been directed to contact the Kinderhook Town Clerk and had left a message but never received a call back. Councilwoman Gumaer said she will look into a list of activities.

Councilwoman Gumaer suggested that there be something built around the garbage can so it stays in one place and doesn't get knocked over.

Old Business

Councilman Knott reported that he had staked the area at the Overlook Park for the kiosk. He asked if anyone had any objection to where he had put them because he wanted to contact Mr. Besha to tell them to go ahead with the construction. There were no objections. Councilman Knott also reported that he had spoken with Dr. Steve Krizar about a scout who is looking for an Eagle Scout project. Their idea is to erect a post-n-rail fence in place of the chainlink fence. Councilman Knott said he had spoken with the Town insurance company and there was no objection to the post-n-rail fence and that he should have more information at the next meeting.

Lee Jamison asked if the air monitor was hooked up and mentioned an article in the newspaper that was critical of the monitor being sited in Stuyvesant. Supervisor Bertram said that last year she went to a County meeting last year about monitoring with various towns and DEC. A person from Germantown had said she "didn't care where it went as long as there was one in the County". Supervisor Bertram said that she was pleased that it was sited here after many meetings with other towns and DEC. Supervisor Bertram reported that it isn't hooked up yet because we are still waiting for National Grid to come. She also said that she calls them weekly and that all of the paperwork has been submitted.

Councilwoman Gumaer gave the Town Hall grounds map to Supervisor Bertram. She reported that she is looking into having someone take care of the landscaping. She also gave an updated list of Recreation Committee members. Councilwoman Gumaer asked to have Tom Pinkowski and Jennifer Cabrera appointed to the Recreation Committee – a motion was made by Councilman Bradlee Webster to make the appointments and it was seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously.

Ned DePew asked about the status of the application for funding for the bridge. Supervisor Bertram said she hasn't heard anything and explained again that if the Town were to be awarded stimulus money to repair the bridge, the project would still have to be put on the DOT Worklist which could mean many years before the work was done. Supervisor Bertram will make an inquiry about the status.

New Business

Supervisor Bertram announced that this year for County Employees' prescription plan the County is now self-insured and are using a company called Pro Act, Inc. A representative was at the County Board meeting and announced that they are going to do a countywide mailing and everyone will be eligible to get a discount prescription card that can be used at area pharmacies. It cannot be used in conjunction with another insurance plan, however. The card will be free-of-charge to the residents of the County.

Public Comments

Mark Young congratulated the Town for the clean up projects and announced that the garbage being picked up has gotten smaller each year. He also thanked Sean Cummings for organizing the projects. Supervisor Bertram added that since we've been having the trash days the Highway Dept. is picking up less trash around town.

Councilman Knott thanked Sean Cummings and all of the volunteers for their work at those clean up projects as well.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Ronald Knott and seconded by Councilman Bradlee Webster. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously.

Abstracts for May are attached.

Recorded this 14th Day of May 2009

Approved this 11th Day of June 2009

TOWN CLERK

SUPERVISOR

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON